

A Fashionable Forger.

I am an attorney and a bill discounter. As it is my vocation to lend money at high interest to extravagant people, my connection principally lies among 'fools,' sometimes among rogues 'of quality.' Mine is a pursuit which a prejudiced world either holds in sovereign contempt, or visits with envy, hatred, and all uncharitable callings; but to my mind, there are many callings, with finer names, that are no better. It gives me two things which I love—money and power; but I cannot desire that it brings with it a bad name. The case lies between character and money, and involves a matter of taste. Some people like character; I prefer money. If I am hated and despised, I chuckle over the 'per contra.' I find it pleasant for members of a proud aristocracy to condescend to their high estate to fawn, feign, flatter; to affect even a mythical familiarity in order to gain my good-will. I am no Shylock. No client can accuse me of desiring either his flesh or his blood—sentimental vengeance is no item in my stock in trade. Gold and bank-notes satisfy my 'rage,' or, if need be, a good mortgage. Far from seeking revenge, the worst defaulter I ever had dealings with cannot deny that I am always willing to accept a good post-obit.

I say again, I am daily brought in contact with all ranks of society, from the poverty-stricken pauper to the peer; and I am no more surprised at receiving an application from a duchess than from a pet opera-dancer. In a five-roomed wait, at this moment, a crowd of borrowers. Among the men, the bareheaded loafers and mustached craft are most prominent; there is a handsome young fellow, with an elaborate cane and wonderfully vacant countenance, who is anticipating in feeble follies, an estate that has been in the possession of his ancestors since the reign of Henry the Eighth. There is a hairy, high-nosed, broken-down nondescript, in appearance something between a horse-dealer and a pugilist. He is an old Etonian. Five years ago he drove his four-in-hand; he is now waiting to beg a sovereign, having been just discharged from the Insolvent Court, for the second time. Among the women, a pretty actress, who, a few years since, looked forward to a supper of steak and onions, with bottled stout, on a Saturday night, as a great treat, now finds one hundred pounds a month insufficient to pay her wine-merchant and her confectioner. I am obliged to deal with each case according to its peculiarities. Genuine undeserved ruin seldom knocks at my door. Mine is a perpetual battle with people who imbibe trickery at the same rate as they dissolve their fortune. I am a hard man, of course. I should not be fit for my pursuit if I were not; but when, by a remote chance, honest misfortune pays me a visit, as Rothschilds amused himself at times by giving a beggar a guinea, so I occasionally treat myself to the luxury of doing a king act. My favorite subjects for this unnatural generosity, are the very young, or the poor, innocent, helpless people, who are unfit for the war of life. Many among my clients (especially those of the latter class) are the victims of a very peculiar kind of fraud. I have a bill here which I want to get discounted. I am in the employ of Messrs. Russell and Smith. The bill is drawn by one of our best customers, the Hon. Miss Shape, niece of Lord Bimbley, and accepted by Major Munge; whom, no doubt, you know by name. She has dealt with us for some years, is very, very extravagant; but always pays." He put the acceptance—was for two hundred pounds—into my hands.

I looked at it as scrutinizing as I usually do at such paper. The Major's signature was familiar to me; but having succeeded to a great estate, he has long ceased to be a customer. I instantly detected a forgery; by whom? was the question. "Could it be the man before me?" experience told me it was not. Perhaps there was something in the expression of my countenance, which Mr. Axminster did not like, for he said, "it is good for the amount, I presume?" I replied, "Pray, sir, from whom did you get this bill?" "I have you circled any other bills made by the same drawer?" "No yes!" said the drawer, without hesitation; "I have paid away a bill for one hundred pounds to Mr. Sparkle, the jeweler, to whom Miss Shape owed twenty pounds. They gave me the difference." "And how long has that bill to run now?" "I replied, 'Pray, sir, from whom did you get this bill?'" "I have you circled any other bills made by the same drawer?" "No yes!" said the drawer, without hesitation; "I have paid away a bill for one hundred pounds to Mr. Sparkle, the jeweler, to whom Miss Shape owed twenty pounds. They gave me the difference."

"I did," Mr. Sparkle required me to do so, to show that the bill came properly into his possession."

"This second bill, you say, is urgently required to enable Miss Shape to leave town?"

"Yes; she is going to Brighton for the winter."

I gave Mr. Axminster a steady, piercing look of inquiry. "Pray, sir," I said, "could you meet that one hundred pounds bill, supposing it could not be paid by the acceptor?"

"Meet it!" The poor fellow wiped from his forehead the perspiration which suddenly broke out at the bare hint of a probability that the bill would be dishonored: "Meet it? O no! I am a married man, with a family, and have nothing but my salary to depend on."

"Then the sooner you get it taken up, and the less you have to do with Miss Shape's bill affairs, the better."

"She has always been punctual hitherto."

To be continued.

B. C. HUNNETT,

ATTORNEY AT LAW.

GENERAL COLLECTING AGENT, and Examiner to take Depositions for the County of Trigg, Clark, and Taylor, and for the City of Louisville.

Re: L. E. Hite & Co., Bell & Terry, Harney & Co., Wm. S. Fitcher, and R. J. Rowan, Louisville.

JANUARY 1892.

BERGANTZ & FRENTZ,

Wholesale and Retail Dealers in

Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, Silver

Ware, Fancy Goods, and Watchmakers' Materials, No. 105, North side of Market st., between Fourth and Fifth, (first door above Fifth) Louisville, Kentucky.

We beg to call the attention of the citizens and public generally, that they are now receiving fresh supplies, and are offering the largest and best selected stock of Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, Silver Ware, Fancy Goods, and Watchmakers' Materials ever offered in Louisville, and at prices not to be understood west of the Mississippi. Our stock is selected from the city and from abroad, as well as our city and country customers visiting the city, are respectfully invited to call and examine our stock. A strict assortment will at all times be selected from our stock. Our stock consists of the following goods:

Ladies' Gold Hunting Watches, full Jeweled, Gold Hunting, enameled;

Do Gold Anchors, full Jeweled;

Do Silver Hunting Watches, full Jeweled;

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WINTER ARRANGEMENT.

PHILADELPHIA AND BALTIMORE, VIA PITTSBURGH AND PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.

We have pleasure in announcing that the Baltimore and Pennsylvania Railroad Company, in accordance with the terms of the contract made with the Government, will run the following trains during the winter season:

No. 1. Baltimore to Philadelphia, via Pittsburgh and New York, daily.

No. 2. Philadelphia to Baltimore, via New York and Pittsburgh, daily.

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GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

REAL ESTATE OFFICE.

JAMES S. SPED and ABRAHAM W. WALLER

Attorneys at Law, 105 North Third Street, Louisville, Ky.

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